

Eric Nash Named 2010 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year

September 23, 2009

Commissioner of Education Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D., announced that Eric Nash, a science teacher at Winnacunnet High School in Hampton, is the 2010 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year. In receiving this award, Mr. Nash becomes New Hampshire's candidate for National Teacher of the Year.

"Selecting a Teacher of the Year is an exceptional way to celebrate the many outstanding and dedicated people teaching in New Hampshire schools," said Commissioner Barry. "Eric will serve as an ambassador for all the excellent teachers in the state."

Mr. Nash has been teaching for 24 years, all of them have been at Winnacunnet High School. Every summer, since 2000, he has taught physics to middle school aged students from around the world at Phillips Exeter Academy.

Eric says, "I love the challenge of teaching, and I am, to this day, fascinated in the subjects of chemistry and physics." His passion for science rubs off on his students. He has the ability to deliver rigorous curriculum in an engaging manner. He has a sense of humor and a willingness to do whatever it takes to motivate his students. He opens himself up to his students by telling stories about himself, making connections from his life to his discipline.

Eric Nash is described by Kelsey Farrell, the student who nominated him as, "the kind of teacher that everyone hopes to have sometime in their education. He is kind, funny, and explains scientific terms in a way that makes sense." His mastery of teaching and dedication to education goes well beyond the classroom. Over the years Eric has taught nearly every age group, from visiting his children's kindergarten classes to teaching chemistry in the Adult High School Evening Program. He realizes the importance in building a community of learners.

Each year, New Hampshire schools take part in the State and National Teacher of the Year Program. The National Teacher of the Year Program, presented by the ING Foundation, is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers. The National Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching. In New Hampshire, Hannaford Supermarkets is proud to partner with the Department of Education to sponsor the New Hampshire Teacher of the Year program.

As a company, Hannaford is committed to enriching the quality of life in the communities they serve. One way to do this is by supporting the Teacher of the Year Program that recognizes the significant contributions made by the many dedicated professionals who choose to make teaching their calling.

New Hampshire Teacher of the Year Finalists are: Justin Ballou, social science teacher at Campbell High School, Litchfield; Cathleen Furlong, second grade teacher at Beaver Meadow School, Concord; Wendy Oellers, second and third grade teacher at Gilford Elementary; and Warren Tickle, retired social studies teacher from Kingswood Regional Middle School, Wolfeboro.

In early December, these finalists will be invited to a "Leadership in Education Banquet" to celebrate their accomplishments along with other distinguished educators in the State. At this banquet they will receive a classroom grant from Hannaford Supermarkets.

The selection process for the 2010 NH Teacher of the Year program was coordinated by a committee including representatives from the NH Department of Education; NH State Board of Education Chair, John Lyons; NH Association of School Principals Executive Director, Peggy McAllister; Bedford School Board Chair, Cindy Chagnon; 2009 NH Teacher of the Year, Deborah Fogg; 2008 NH Teacher of the Year, Benjamin Adams; Hannaford Supermarkets Store Manager, Mark Azzopardi, and Hannaford Supermarkets Regional Community Relations Specialist, Molly Tarleton.

For more information about this and other award/recognition programs coordinated through the Department of Education log on to www.education.nh.gov or contact Lori Temple, Public Information Officer at (603) 271-6646 or e-mail ltemple@ed.state.nh.us.

To contact Winnacunnet High School please call (603) 926-3395

Every day a New Hampshire teacher makes a difference in the life of a child. Every year the NH Department of Education honors outstanding teachers who make their communities, profession, and the world a better place.